

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3550
USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
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STATE FOR NEA/IAI, & NEA/P SHERMAN; USICA FOR NEA

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR IS SOPN
SUBJ: TIME MAGAZINE ARTICLE ON WEST BANK

1. WE UNDERSTAND THAT TIME MAGAZINE WILL PUBLISH STORY ON WEST BANK IN NEXT ISSUE, WHICH DUE APPEAR ON JUNE 12. ACCORDING TO TIME ISRAEL BUREAU CHIEF, DON NEFF, WHO PREPARED ARTICLE, IT WILL NOT BE COVER STORY BUT WILL BE OF "COVER STORY LENGTH" (4-5 PAGES). IT INCLUDES SECTIONS ON ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS, HUMAN RIGHTS, ECONOMICS OF OCCUPATION AND "SELF-RULE AND THE FUTURE" AS WELL AS A SUMMARY SECTION. HUMAN RIGHTS SECTION WILL INCLUDE INTERVIEWS WITH WEST BANK ARABS ALLEGING MISTREATMENT AND TORTURE BY ISRAELI OCCUPATION AUTHORITIES AND WILL PROBABLY EVOKE STRONG REACTIONS IN ISRAEL AS WELL AS IN U.S.

2. FYI, ALTHOUGH STORY BASED ALMOST ENTIRELY ON NEFF INTERVIEWS, HE HAS DISCUSSED ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF WEST BANK WITH EMBOFF ON BACKGROUND BASIS. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND HE HAS QUERIED AMCONGEN OFFICERS ON HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS. NEFF HAS ASSURED US THAT NO
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IDENTIFICATION OF US OFFICIAL SOURCES WILL APPEAR IN ARTICLE.

3. RECOMMEND PRESS GUIDANCE BE PREPARED FOR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

Q. DID THE USG STIMULATE OR ENCOURAGE THE TIME ARTICLE?

-. AS YOU ARE WELL AWARE, THE USG DOES NOT CONTROL THE AMERICAN PRESS. TIME, LIKE OTHER PUBLICATIONS OF ITS KIND, IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS OWN MATERIALS.

Q. WAS THE USG AWARE THAT TIME WAS PLANNING THIS ARTICLE?

A. THE TIME BUREAU CHIEF INFORMED OUR EMBASSY IN ISRAEL THAT HE WAS PREPARING A STORY ON THE WEST BANK, AND REQUESTED US OFFICIAL POLICIES AND VIEWS ON WEST-BANK RELATED ISSUES. THIS WAS A PERFECTLY NORMAL REQUEST, AND THIS INFO WAS PROVIDED.

Q. ARE THE ALLEGATIONS IN THE ARTICLE CORRECT?

A. IT IS NOT OUR PRACTICE TO COMMENT ON MEDIA REPORTS UNLESS THEY DISTORT USG POSITIONS OR MISQUOTE USG OFFICIALS. SINCE NEITHER OF THESE APPLY IN THIS CASE, I HAVE NO COMMENT.

Q. WILL THE USG LOOK INTO THE ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING HUMAN RIGHTS WHICH APPEAR IN THE TIME ARTICLE?

A. AS WE HAVE STATED ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS, THIS ADMINISTRATION TAKES A STRONG INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS. WE HAVE DISCUSSED THIS SUBJECT WITH THE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES IN THE PAST AND IF APPROPRIATE WILL DO SO IN THE FUTURE.

Q. WHAT ABOUT TIME'S STATEMENTS ON THE WEST BANK SETTLEMENTS?

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A. WE HAVE MADE OUR VIEWS ON SETTLEMENTS KNOWN ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS.

4. WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ANY CHANGES OR ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR SPOKESMAN BEFORE MONDAY NOON BRIEFING. LEWIS

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